

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF
CHILDREN IN THE UNITED
STATES AND SUPPORTING
GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL
YOUTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support H. Con. Res. 375 to recognize an "American Youth Day." This legislation, which I introduced with strong bipartisan support, recognizes the importance of America's youth and supports the ideas and goals of an American Youth Day. The bill encourages such organizations as General Colin Powell's group, America's Promise.

American Youth Day is about recognizing our youth and providing them with the role models and skills they need to be successful. By investing in our nation's most valuable resource—our children—we help create a better future for all of us. H. Con. Res. 375 recognizes and supports a nationwide Youth Day to be observed annually on a Saturday near the beginning of the school year, with the date to be specifically determined by the local community.

The concept of this legislation was inspired by one of my constituents, retired Navy Captain George Marshall Bates, who has advocated the establishment of an American Youth Day since the 1960's. While Captain Bates' proposal is broader and more encompassing in specificity than this Resolution, the ideals and principle objectives are the same and I am very fortunate to have had his assistance in producing this legislation. Captain Bates is a distinguished retired Navy JAG officer, and the youth of this nation are the beneficiaries of his persistence and effective advocacy of this cause.

The resolution acknowledges that today's oppressive influences on youth include violence, drugs, abuse and even stress. Regardless of economic status, ethnic or cultural background, or location, our youth feel the pressures of contemporary society.

The resolution also acknowledges the wonderful efforts of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, led by General Colin L. Powell, United States Army (retired). America's Promise is one of the Nation's most comprehensive nonprofit organizations dedicated to building and strengthening the character and competence of youth by mobilizing communities around the nation to fulfill the organization's "Five Promises" for America's young people. American Youth Day seeks to promote local and national activities that fulfill the five promises of America's Promise, which are as follows:

1. Ongoing relationships with caring adults;
2. Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours;
3. A healthy start and future;
4. Marketable skills through effective education; and
5. Opportunities to give back through community service.

In order to secure a future for our youth, Americans must spend time, share traditions,

and communicate values to children. Often it is even more important to make a special effort to do this during teen years. Many youth live in single parent homes and seldom get the nurturing and guidance of a complete family; for them the time mentors take to spend with them is immensely important. This bill encourages local schools and communities across the nation to highlight our children and share their successes and give them the attention and encouragement so many miss by participating in an American Youth Day. I hope my colleagues will join in me in supporting this important and worthwhile endeavor.

IN HONOR OF DOUGLAS FLATT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional citizen of Tyler, Texas. The Texas Section of the American Society of Engineers recently honored Douglas E. Flatt, P.E. with its Service to People Award, a distinguished award that recognizes those who have made significant contributions to their community.

Mr. Flatt has served as both president and director of the East Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and Northeast Branch of the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is a life member of the National Society of Professional Engineers as well as the American Society of Civil Engineers. Additionally, he has served on the Board of Directors for the Texas Section of the ASCE. In 1985, he received TSPE's East Texas Engineer of the Year Award and in 1988 he received ASCE's Professional Services Award.

He has also served as Chairman of the Southern Division of the Association of Independent Scientific, Engineering and Testing Firm as well as President of the Texas Council of Engineering Laboratories in 1982 and 1983. Currently he serves on both the Legislative Committee and the Membership Committee of the Consulting Engineers Council of Texas and is a member of the American Society for Testing and Materials Committee E-50 for Environmental Site Assessments.

Mr. Flatt formed ETTL Engineers and Consultants in 1965 and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Prior to forming his successful corporation, he was employed by the Texas Department of Transportation, first as senior laboratory engineer and later as senior resident engineer.

Mr. Flatt's recent award, however, is a testament to the time and effort that he has devoted to his community. He has served on the City of Tyler's Airport Advisory Board and the Board of Adjustment of Planning and Zoning. He has been Chair of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce Highway Transportation Committee, President of the Smith County Youth Foundation, Chairman of the Board of the Tyler YMCA, and the advisory board of the East Texas Crisis Center, and on the board of the Texas Society to Prevent Blindness. He is also a member of the Tyler Rotary Club where

he is a Paul Harris fellow, and actively serves the First Presbyterian Church of Tyler as deacon, elder and trustee.

Mr. Flatt graduated from Terrell High School in 1949 and earned B.S. Degrees in Agricultural and Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1953 and 1955. He received a Master of Science Degree in 1957 from Texas A&M University following his discharge from active duty as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Field Artillery. He maintains close ties with his alma mater, serving as vice-president and board member of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students. He is an endowed Century Club member, member of the 12th Man Foundation as well as the Pillars of A&M. He is also a contributor and participant in A&M's Spencer J. Buchanan Chair in Civil Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, Douglas Flatt has upheld high standards in all that he has done. He has achieved success in his profession—and he has also dedicated much of his life in services to others. I join his wife, Maxine; his son, Darrell, and daughter-in-law, Donna; and his grandchildren, John and Madeline, all of whom are residents of Tyler, in congratulating him on his Service to People Award.

2000 EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS
AWARD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the fifth annual Excellence in Business Award for their high ethical standards, corporate success and growth, employee and customer service, and concern for the environment.

Award winners include businesses across the spectrum of the valley economy: agriculture; charities; finance; banking and insurance; health care; manufacturing; professional services; real estate and construction; nonprofit organizations; small businesses; retail and wholesale.

The 2000 Excellence in Business Award winners are:

- Agriculture—Zacky Farms
- Charitable—Hope Now for Youth, Inc.
- Financial/Banking/Insurance—U.S. Small Business Administration
- Healthcare—Kaiser Permanente Medical Center
- Manufacturing—Netafim Irrigation, Inc.
- Nonprofit—The Bulldog Foundation
- Professional Service—Deloitte & Touche
- Real Estate/Construction—Webb & Son
- Retail/Wholesale—Richard Caglia Electric Motor Shop
- Small Business—BennettFrost Personnel Services, Inc.
- Hall of Fame—James and Coke Hallowell

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate each of the 2000 Excellence in Business Award winners for their leadership and contributions to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing all of the recipients many more years of continued success.